

Alberta Finance Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF June 11, 2001 TO JUNE 18, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Industrial Capacity Utilization Rates	1Q, 2001 84.1%	-1.0% ^a	-1.5% ^b	For the first three months of 2001, the utilization of Canada's industrial capacity eased for a third consecutive quarter, falling 1.0%. Logging and forestry led the decline (-1.8%) followed by, manufacturing (-1.7%), and electric power and gas distribution systems (0.6%). Utilization rates rose in mining (2.1%), non-durable goods (0.9%) and remained constant in construction.
^a From 4 th quarter 2000				
^b From 1 st quarter 2000				
Alberta Drilling Activity (monthly average)	May 221	-1.3%	22.1%	The total number of active rigs drilling in Alberta declined 1.3% in May to 221, down from 224 in April. The decrease is attributed to normal spring break up in the industry. There were significantly more active rigs in May 2001 than May 2000 (181 active rigs). For the first 5 months of 2001, the total number of active rigs drilling in Alberta is up 18.2% compared to the first 5 months of 2000.
Consumer Price Index Alberta	May 123.2	3.6%	5.7%	Alberta's year over year inflation rate rose to 5.7% in May, largely driven by higher energy and food prices. The discontinuation of the provincial natural gas credit resulted in a 85.8% jump in natural gas prices, relative to May 2000. Year over year, the largest gains in Canada were in Alberta (5.7%), Ontario (4.2%) and Manitoba (4.1%). Quebec (3.8%). The overall inflation rate for Canada as a whole was 3.9%. Excluding food and energy the rate was 2.1%.
Canada	117.4	0.9%	3.9%	
New Motor Vehicle Sales	April			During April, Canadian new motor vehicle sales increased 5.9%. Sales of both new cars and trucks advanced for a second straight month. Motor vehicle sales advanced in all provinces except Newfoundland where sales declined by 0.4%. Among the provinces, Manitoba had the largest increase (16.6%), followed by New Brunswick (11.8%), and Quebec (6.6%). Sales of motor vehicles in Alberta were up 3.9% from March and 3.4% from April 2000.
Alberta	15,705	3.9%	3.4%	
Canada	134,372	5.9%	1.7%	